

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, and 14 are amended for clarification purposes only and claims 17-19 are added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 8, 10, 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Erdem at the interview held May 31, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 7, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Takagi (U.S. Patent No. 5,252,844) in view of Takeuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,264). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, the Examiner agreed during the personal interview that none of the applied references disclose or suggest a semiconductor integrated circuit that includes a columnar insulator region, as recited in independent claim 7. Moreover, the columnar electrode in Takeuchi is not an insulator. The Office Action admits that Takagi fails to disclose the columnar insulator region (Office Action, page 2, lines 11-12). Thus, Takeuchi fails to compensate for deficiencies in Takagi.

Because the applied references fail to disclose these features, any combination of the applied references would not have resulted in the claimed invention. Accordingly, because independent claim 7, and its dependent claims, are patentable over a combination of the applied references, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Moreover, because the process claims 1 and 14 include all the limitations of allowable claim 7, it is respectfully requested that independent method claims 1 and 14, and their

dependent claims be rejoined with the currently allowed claims. According to the Official Gazette (1184 Official Gazette Volume 86, March 26, 1996), because claim 7 is an elected product claim, and because the withdrawn process claims contain all the limitations of the allowed product claim, rejoinder will be permitted. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the relevant Official Gazette citation is attached. Accordingly, rejoinder of independent claims 1 and 14 and their dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Finally, new claims 17-19 depend from allowable claim 7, and as such define patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time
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